

This Week in Health Care Reform: May 21, 2010

Although polling shows about half of Americans still disapprove of the health care reform law, Administration officials continue to tout the implementation of certain health care reform provisions that go into effect in the coming months. Meanwhile, President Obama and Congressional leaders spent the week focusing on the economy, jobs, and financial overhaul amid several contentious and important state primary elections.

As the health care reform debate continues to take shape this year, we encourage you and others to engage Members of Congress by visiting the [Health Action Network](#).

Health Care Reform

Health Care Reform Legislation Plays Role in Primaries: This past Tuesday, Americans went to the polls to vote in several key primary elections across the country. Political experts are divided on the significance of the impact of health care [reform](#) legislation on the elections, but as Sarah Kliff reported in [Politico](#), “there’s all kinds of spin about the role of health care in Tuesday’s elections. But a simple fact stands out: no one came out on top in any major race bragging about passage of health care.”

Business Group Joins Lawsuit: Last [Friday](#), the multiparty lawsuit against the federal government got bigger. The [National Federation of Independent Business](#), which represents small businesses, joined the lawsuit originally filed on March 23 in a Florida federal court. An uninsured auto body shop owner in Florida and a man from Washington State, who prefers to pay for medical expenses out of pocket, joined the lawsuit as well.

Oklahoma House Overrides Governor’s Veto: On [Tuesday](#), lawmakers in the Oklahoma House of Representatives voted to override Governor Henry’s veto of legislation allowing [Oklahomans](#) to opt out of the new health care reform law. The [vetoed bill](#) that is now closer to passage would authorize legislators to sue the federal government and prevent the imposition of a mandatory health care system on Oklahoma residents.

Public Opinion

Americans Still Favor Repeal: According to a recent [Rasmussen report](#), 56 percent of Americans believe the new health care reform law is likely to increase the federal deficit. Fifty-six percent of those polled favor repealing the health care reform legislation, while 50 percent feel the law is bad for the country.

Majority of Americans Still Disapprove of Health Care Reform: In a recent poll from [Public Policy Polling](#), 49 percent of Americans oppose the President’s plan for health care reform, while 46 percent disapprove of his job performance overall.

Looking Ahead

As the election season progresses, Congressional Republicans look to leverage voters' sustained anger towards the passage of health care reform legislation and expect it to translate into more victories for the GOP in November.